The South Carolina
Forest Steward
May 2012

Welcome to the May 2012 edition of the South Carolina Forest Steward. This issue will provide you with information on timber harvest contracts, cogongrass, crop tree management and the reforestation tax incentive. We also have information for you on how to roughly determine the basal area of your stand using homemade devices. With the legislative session wrapping up, we have an update on bills of importance to the forestry community here in South Carolina.

There have been several opportunities to get out in the woods and learn from some of our landowners as well as foresters around the state and region. We hope you have taken advantage of some of these opportunities. We will continue to bring them to your attention. Usually for the cost of a meal, you learn a new technique as well as make great connections with other landowners in your area.

We have completed the move to electronic format for the Forest Steward. The bonus of moving to electronic format is that we no longer have to worry about space! With that said, if you have any suggestions for content, please send us an email. We want to serve you!

Clemson Forestry and Natural Resources Extension has also moved into the world of Facebook and Twitter! Our intent with this move is to find another way to reach the public. Our posts on Facebook are a way to bring news of all kinds to those interested in forestry and natural resources. We would love to have you join us! Go to http://www.facebookcom/fnrclemson. As the days start getting warmer, we hope you are enjoying the change in temperature and taking the time to enjoy the glory of our South Carolina forests.

Tamara Cushing, Extension Forestry Specialist, Clemson University
Bob Franklin, Extension Forester, Colleton County
Co-Editors

Timber Harvest Contracts

Scott Paden, Forestry Graduate Student, Clemson University

Disputes between honest people almost always arise from a lack of communication. A timber contract should be viewed as a medium for communicating the wants, needs and agreements of both parties. It is much easier and less costly to discuss and resolve potential problems before they happen, than to remedy them after the fact.

The timber sale contract should be clearly written and both parties should fully understand their rights and responsibilities within the contract. Ideally, the document should have the notarized signatures of both parties and be recorded at the courthouse before any logging operations begin. Landowners should read the contract thoroughly and seek professional advice if they do not understand anything in the contract.

Below are several key issues that should be addressed in a Timber Sales Contract:

- When is the timber harvest to begin? When does it end? Are there penalties for not meeting the completion deadline? Is there a grace period for inclement weather?
- If the timber is damaged by wind or fire prior to harvest who is responsible for the loss?
- What condition should the land, roads, gates, etc. be left in after the harvest?
- What timber is to be harvested? A clear map, survey (if available) and aerial photo with the outlined harvest site should be included as an attachment to the contract.

- How and when is the landowner to be paid? Is there a late payment fee?
- Will the logger provide additional services such as road building, pre-commercial thinning on an adjacent tract, new gates, new roads etc.?
- Do the parties agree to arbitration if a dispute arises? Who pays the attorney fees?
- Landowners should have the logger agree to a walk of the property after the harvest to examine the site and address any site condition issues before the logger moves his equipment to the next location.

Always be conscious of who you are doing business with. The logger with the highest bid may not be the best one to use. There may be good reasons that he can pay more for timber than the other loggers, such as ignoring best management practices. Talk to other landowners about their experiences with the loggers in your area.

It is always recommended that landowners consult with a Forester to advise them in the transaction. A Forester will be very familiar with the potential hazards of a timber sale and knowledgeable of current market conditions. If you are an absentee landowner a forester can be your eyes and ears while the logging operation is underway. If you need help finding a Forester, contact your local Extension agent or Forestry Commission office. ✷

South Carolina Legislative Update

Scott Hawkins, Public Information Director, South Carolina Forestry Commission

The forestry community continues to keep a close eye on some pending legislation. We're pleased to report that there has been significant progress.

Overall, these bills are aimed at strengthening forest industry in the state and maintaining it as the number-one manufacturing sector in our state in terms of numbers of jobs provided and higher-than-average salaries paid. Please contact your local representatives and let them know, that as a South Carolina forest landowner, you support legislation which protects the state's forest resource and your family's investment.

If you're unsure who your representatives in the State House are, or you simply need their contact information, visit www.scstatehouse.gov/. If you have any questions about any forestry legislation, contact the Commission at (803) 896-8820.

H 4082 –The Property and Firefighter Protection Bill

Introduced by Representative Vick. Other sponsors include Rep. Edge and Rep. Hiott.

Initially, this bill was proposed to provide between $8 and $10 million per year in funding to the agency for fire suppression and economic development. This bill was passed by the House and Senate but the Governor vetoed the bill. The House and Senate voted to override the veto. The economic development component has been dropped from the language. The bill is estimated to generate about $2.9 million for the Commission to use for fire suppression starting July 2013.

H 3631& S 501 – The Prescribed Fire Bill

Introduced in the House by Representative Harrison and in the Senate by Senator Cromer

This bill has been signed into law. The law requires that the plaintiff must prove gross negligence or recklessness in litigation involving smoke-related damages resulting from a prescribed burn. Now makes SCFC's Smoke Management Guidelines regulations.

S 168 – Timber Theft Penalty Bill

Introduced by Senator Shoopman, this bill increases penalties for timber theft from $500 to $1,500 if timber value is $1,000 or less. If value is greater than $1,000 but less than $5,000 the penalty will be between $5,000 and $10,000 and if the value is greater than $5,000 the penalty will be between $10,000 and $20,000. Bill was amended to increase penalties for repeat offenders in full committee.

This bill has also been passed and signed into law effective July 1, 2012.

H 3692 – Heirs Property Bill

Introduced by Representative Robert Brown this bill would allow for the sale of timber on land owned by coheirs and allow for payment to non-consenting coheirs.

The bill is currently in the House Ag Committee – waiting for a subcommittee hearing.

S 579 – State Forester on Coordinating Council

Introduced by Senator Cromer, this bill would add the State Forester to the Coordinating Council for Economic Development. Current members on council by law are the Secretary of Commerce, Commissioner of Agriculture, Director of Employment and Workforce, Chairman of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Chairman of the S.C. Ports Authority, Chairman of the S. C. Public Service Authority, Chairman of the S. C. Jobs Economic Development Authority, Director of the Department of Revenue and Chairman of the S. C Research Authority. The bill has just passed the Senate Labor, Commerce and Industry committee and now goes before the full Senate. Dead in the Senate for this legislative session. ✷

Cogongrass -- Help Stop the Spread

Carolyn Dawson, Area Forestry Extension Agent, Oconee County

As we slip into springtime, the weather begins to warm, the days become longer, the plants begin to bloom, and the grass begins to grow. But there is one species of grass that we want to prevent from flowering, establishing, and growing in South Carolina, Cogongrass.

Cogongrass, Imperata cylindrical, is considered to be one of the top 10 worst weeds in the world and is a growing threat to SC. It has been found in our neighboring states (Florida and Georgia) and it is listed on both the State and U.S. Federal Noxious Weed List. It continues its rapid spread across the Southeast, reducing forest and pasture productivity, destroying wildlife habitat, impacting rights of ways and presenting an extreme fire hazard. To date, there have been approximately 15-20 known occurrences of cogongrass in SC. Early detection and eradication are our only hope of keeping this invasive plant from becoming a fixture in our state.

Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org

Cogongrass was first introduced into the United States from Asia in the early 1900's. It is an aggressive invader of natural and disturbed areas that quickly forms large, dense stands and crowds out other native vegetation. Prompt detection and immediate control are critical as cogongrass forms dense mats of sharply pointed roots (rhizomes) making eradication difficult. The plant spreads by both seeds and rhizomes. Contaminated equipment used for site preparation, tree planting, harvesting, wildlife food plot preparation, road grading, powerline installation, as well as movement of contaminated fill dirt and other direct movement by man are also means of spreading.

Infestations can reduce pine survival and growth. Flammable oils in the grass blades have the potential to raise the intensity and severity of prescribed burns and wildfires threatening overstory trees. Over time cogongrass may significantly impact management and productivity of pines on infested sites.

Cogongrass generally grows in circular patches 3-4 feet tall. The blades are bright yellow-green, sharply pointed, 1/2 -3/4 inch wide, with an off-center whitish mid-vein and finely toothed edges. It flowers during late April and throughout the month of May. The flower/seed heads are 2-8 inches long, fluffy, and silvery-white. The roots/rhizomes form dense mats, have many sharp points, and are visibly segmented.

Management strategies will vary according to the location and degree of infestation and could require an extensive investment to control. Please contact Clemson University Department of Plant Industry (864) 646-2140 or your local Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service if you suspect a cogongrass patch.

A statewide cogongrass survey is conducted annually by a statewide, multi-member Taskforce team. The survey runs from May-June to search for new infestations and everyone is encouraged to help. For survey information or more information about cogongrass, please visit: http://www.clemson.edu/for/cogongrass. ✷

Crop Tree Management

Robert M. Franklin, Area Forestry & Wildlife Extension Agent, Colleton County

Do you have small tracts of mixed hardwood or pine-hardwood forests? If so, you may consider using crop tree management as an option in your forest management toolbox. Crop tree management is a system of timber stand improvement (TSI) that focuses on individual trees that are retained in the forest for 20 + years before final harvest. These trees are left as "crop trees" and are typically the best and highest quality 30 to 60 trees per acre. Depending on the landowner's objectives, they can be quality timber, wildlife trees, trees for fall color or some combination of the three.

What makes crop tree management different from area wide thinning or TSI, is the focus on the individual "leave" trees. Once the crop trees are selected, you carefully evaluate each individual crop tree. If adjacent tree crowns are touching the crop tree crowns, you cut or kill the adjacent trees in order to leave about 15 feet of space between the crowns. This gives the crop trees enough room to expand their crowns and make good growth for about 7 or eight years. With hardwoods, this gives just enough room for the crop tree crowns to expand without allowing sunlight into the stand that would encourage epicormic branching. Epicormic branching occurs when sunlight hits the trunk of the tree. When managing for hardwood timber, your goal is to grow a clean, limb-free 1st (or butt) log. If epicormic branching occurs, on that lower log, the quality of that tree for timber is reduced.

When implementing crop tree management on your property, there are 7 steps you need to consider:

Step 1 – Determine what your goals are for the tract. What do you want out of your forestland? Growing quality timber? Improving wildlife habitat? Harvesting firewood? Developing better fall color and scenic vistas? Or some combination? A clear look at your objectives will help you make better management decisions and make implementing crop tree management much easier.

Step 2 – Establishment of stand specific objectives. Once your goals have been identified, objectives for the individual stands can be established. For example, a landowner with bottomland hardwoods may desire to: (1) Increase production of winter food for turkeys, (2) Grow quality hardwood sawtimber, (3) Increase the amount of attractive fall foliage that is visible from the house, stream or road, and (4) Increase the effectiveness of a riparian (streamside) zone as a nutrient filter.

Step 3 – Develop Crop Tree Selection Criteria. Selection criteria will vary depending on the goals and objectives. Some trees can satisfy multiple tree selection criteria. For instance, a red oak might be both a timber and wildlife crop tree because it can produce high-quality timber products and valuable mast for wildlife. Blackgum could serve as an aesthetic crop tree because of its attractive fall foliage and also qualify as a wildlife crop tree because of the soft mast it produces. Table 2 below contains examples of crop tree selection criteria.

Table 2. Examples of crop tree selection criteria for woodland owners with timber, wildlife, aesthetics, and/or water quality as primary objectives.

TIMBER

- Crown is large, healthy, and in or above the main canopy (at least 25 feet tall).
- High-value commercial species.
- High-quality tree with:
  - Butt log with high-grade potential.
  - No sprouts on butt log.
  - No lean, low forks, etc.
- Species well adapted to the site.
- Expected longevity of 20+ years.

WILDLIFE

- Crown is large, healthy, and in or above the main canopy.
- Mast-producing species (prefer hard over soft).
- Trees with dead branches and open cavities are desirable.
- Species variety is highly desirable.
- Expected longevity of 20+ years.

AESTHETICS

- Select trees and species that are unique in appearance or character, produce attractive flowers and colorful foliage, and have attractive or unique bark.
- Visible from roadways, paths, overlooks, vantage points, etc.
- Expected longevity of 20+ years.

WATER QUALITY

- Crown is large, healthy, and in or above the main canopy.
- Species that are good nutrient accumulators (young, deciduous).
- Species tolerant to flooding.

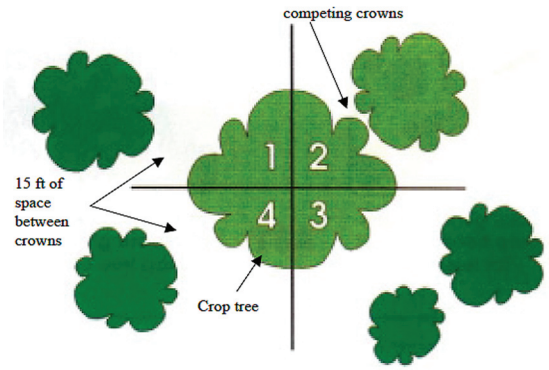
Step 4 – Inventory the property. Once crop tree selection criteria has been established, the stand can be inventoried to determine the number of trees that meet the criteria guidelines. Certainly, before any

management activity is started, you need to know what you have before final decisions are made.

Step 5 – Understand the proposed treatment. Before marking trees for cutting, measure a few 1/5th acre plots (52' 7.9" radius for a circular plot or 93' 4.1" per side for a square plot) and mark the crop trees with flagging. This will allow you to see how the crop trees selected will meet your criteria. Then, mark the trees to be cut with different colored flagging to help you visualize the impact of the trees to be removed.

Step 6 – Decide how many crop trees to release per acre. The number of crop trees on a site will depend upon the site, species composition, stand history and age. The number of crop trees released depends on how many of these trees meet the criteria established earlier. The more crop trees, the heavier the cutting will be. Generally, there will be 30-60 crop trees per acre. Note that higher numbers of crop trees will require more release cutting and potentially more work and expense vs. fewer crop trees.

Step 7 – Decide which trees to cut to release the crop trees. Selection of the trees to cut is done simply by looking up into the crop tree crown and visualizing the crown divided into four quadrants (see figure below). Determine how many sides are free from competition



or free to grow (free to expand). Free to grow means that the crown has room to expand. Generally, healthy crowns in hardwoods expand at a rate of about one foot per year. Therefore, you want about 15 feet of space between adjacent tree crowns, thus providing adequate release for about 7-8 years.

A crown-touching release results in the removal of all trees with crowns that touch the crop tree crown. If there are two crop trees with adjoining crowns, you can consider the two as one crown and release fully around the combined crowns.

Crop tree management focuses on managing individual trees and increasing their potential to meet multiple landowner objectives. Implementing crop tree management requires a clear understanding of your goals for your forestland, establishment of specific, attainable objectives and the development of suitable crop tree selection criteria. Selection of individual crop trees is guided by both the selection criteria and desired stand conditions. A crown-touching release is applied around crop trees to free them from competition, promoting increased growth and progress toward objectives. Crop tree management is an especially useful tool for small, family forests featuring natural, mixed stands of hardwoods, streamside areas and pine-hardwood forests.

For additional information, consult the following publications:

Conner, William H. and Robert M. Franklin. 2005. Management of lowcountry bottomland hardwoods using the crop tree management system. Forestry Leaflet 33, Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service, Clemson, SC. 8pp.

Perkey, A.W., B. Perkins and H.C. Smith. 1994. Crop tree management in eastern hardwoods. USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry, Morgantown, WV. NA-TP-19-93. ✷

Forest Stewardship Program

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is a FREE technical service program designed to encourage multiple resource management on private non-industrial forestlands. FSP encourages wise use of all forest-related activities including timber management, wildlife habitat management, recreation, aesthetics, grazing, and soil and water conservation. WHO IS ELIGIBLE: Private landowners who own more than 10 acres, with at least 5 acres of the tract in forestland. SERVICES PROVIDED: Free technical assistance from a professional forester and wildlife biologist, a 10 year written management plan, subscription to the South Carolina Forest Stewards newsletter, and recognition as a Stewardship Forest landowner.

CONTACT: The SC Forestry Commission Forest Stewardship Coordinator, Scott Phillips, at (803) 896-8844; Lynn Leclair, PeeDee Region Stewardship Forester at (843) 662-5571; Vaughan Spearman, Coastal Region Stewardship Forester at (843) 538-3708; Jamie Jones, Piedmont Region Stewardship Forester at (803) 276-0205 or your local South Carolina Forestry Commission area office.

Homemade Ways to Determine Basal Area

Stephen Pohlman, Extension Forestry Agent, Edgefield County

When a forester is helping you make decisions on your property, the measurement of basal area is very important. Basal area is simply the cross sectional square footage of standing timber. By knowing this measurement, a forester can determine how to work with the stand to best meet your objectives.

Most foresters use a wedge prism to determine basal area (BA) for a timber stand. The wedge prism is basically a wedge of glass that is metered as a 'factor', which is due to the amount of refraction caused by the wedge's angle. A basal area factor (BAF) of 10 is the most common used. Though wedge prisms can be obtained through forestry equipment suppliers, at times a wedge prism might not be available in the field. So what else can you use?

Homemade basal area devices typically range from a pencil, a penny, a washer, a slim piece of wood or your thumb. The only prerequisite for the device you select is that it must have a measurable width in inches. Next, multiply the width measurement by 33. Your answer will be how far from your eye you need to hold the item in front of you. To maintain an accurate distance, a measured string can be attached.

The formula to determine device distance:

'Width of item in Inches' x 33 = Distance item is held from eye in inches

Device example: A penny

A penny measures approximately .75"

.75" x 33 = 24.75"

Thus 24.75" is how far we need to hold the penny from our eye for this exercise.

One of the biggest differences one needs to remember when comparing the use of a wedge prism to their homemade BA device; the wedge prism is the plot center, where as you are the plot center with your homemade device.

The Exercise:

1. Choose a random spot in your timber stand, this is known as a 'plot'.

2. You are the center of the plot. With one eye closed, aim your device at 4.5' up the first tree (4.5' = diameter at breast height, aka DBH).

3. If the width of the device (the penny) is smaller than the width of the tree (meaning the tree is bigger), count it as 'in'.

4. If the width of the device is larger than the width of the tree, it is considered 'out'.

5. If the width of the device is the same width as the tree, it is considered to be 'borderline'. In my field experience, if you count every other borderline tree in your tally, you will be as accurate as possible.

6. After the first tree is determined to be 'in/out/borderline', while standing in the same place, rotate 360 degrees until every tree has been checked until

you come full circle back to the first tree. It is helpful to always pick a tree that easily stands out to you and always rotate in the same direction.

7. Once the first plot is complete, randomly pick another in the same timber stand making sure that plots do not overlap. Repeat the above by tallying only the 'in' and every other 'borderline' trees.

8. Lastly, add all of your tallied trees together. This will include all of the 'in' trees and your every other borderline trees as well. Next, divide that number by the total number of plots you took. Then multiply that number by 10 (our Basal Area Factor). The answer is your stand's basal area.

The formula to calculate basal area:

(total # of tallied trees / total # of plots) X 10 = Basal Area for your timber stand

Great timber stands typically have one thing in common, people that care about the land and a management plan. Hopefully you will find this to be a great field exercise to help you engage with your land and your forester. One thing to keep in mind, homemade devices are not as accurate as professional devices, however they are close and can provide you a great way to monitor your timber stand over the years. ✷

Tax Planning -- The Reforestation Incentive

Dr. Tamara Cushing, Assistant Professor & Extension Forestry Specialist, Clemson University

Now that your 2011 income tax return has been sent in

and you are trying to forget about taxes for a while, let's talk a little tax planning. The current income tax law has a special provision for forest landowners. The law allows landowners to deduct from their income tax return up to $10,000 in reforestation expenditures per tax year, per qualified timber property.

Reforestation expenditures can include site preparation, seedlings, planting costs and necessary expenses to ensure that the trees are free to grow. We generally consider them free to grow at age 2 in the South for pines. This incentive isn't just for those planting pines. If you incur expenses to encourage natural regeneration, those expenses are also eligible for the reforestation incentive. For those who are dealing mainly with hardwoods, this isn't just a pine incentive. Bottom line, this incentive is for anyone reforesting or foresting (land previously in a non-forest use) their property.

Each year that you incur reforestation related expenses, you may deduct up to $10,000 of reforestation expenditures. Make sure you see the each year part. So if you incur site preparation expenses in one calendar year and then do the planting in the next calendar year, you have $10,000 for the expenses in the first year (when you did site preparation) and another $10,000 for the expenses in the year you planted!

What if you spend more than $10,000 in a year on site preparation expenses? The IRS allows you to deduct the amount over $10,000 in a tax year through a process called amortization. That is the fancy way of saying that you may deduct the rest over the next seven tax years. At the end of year seven, all of your reforestation expenses for that tax year would have been deducted on your tax return.

Some of you have heard me preach about basis and that you need it to reduce the amount of income taxable after a sale. So what does the reforestation incentive do to your basis? If you use the reforestation incentive and deduct your expenses through either the $10,000 deduction or the amortization you will not have any basis in the trees (unless you incur some other capital expense before the harvest). Don't let that worry you. It is better for you to receive the tax benefit today on those expenses instead of carrying those expenses (in a basis account) until the time of harvest. Think of it this way, if you deduct those expenses now, you are able to take the tax savings and invest it elsewhere. If you don't deduct and carry it as basis that money is tied up and is no benefit until you harvest many years from now.

If you are preparing to site prep and plant a tract this year, consult with your accountant about taking the reforestation incentive.✷

What's There In Cost-Share

Lynn Leclair, Pee Dee Stewardship Forester, SC Forestry Commission

At times the acronyms associated with federal programs can be confusing. Getting to know the various cost-sharing programs and what they offer can provide stewards with the means to accomplish things that otherwise may have to wait. Financial and technical assistance are available.

One popular program available through the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) which was authorized through the Farm Security Act of 1985. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers the program while

technical support functions are provided by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), state agencies, local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other non-federal providers of technical assistance.

Landowners can offer land for general CRP sign-up enrollment only during designated sign-up periods. Environmentally desired land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled at any time under special CRP Continuous Sign-Up. Eligible conservation practices under Continuous Sign-Up include establishment of riparian buffers, wildlife habitat buffers, filter strips, wetland buffers, wetland restoration, shallow water areas for wildlife and native pollinator habitat.

The Farm Service Agency provides rental payments to participants for acreage enrolled in CRP. Rental payments are based on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the average dryland cash rent or cash rent equivalent using data provided by t he National Agricultural Statistical Service. Landowners may offer land at that rate or offer the land at a lower rate to increase the likelihood of their offer being accepted. Cost share assistance is also provided to establish the approved cover on eligible land. The cost share assistance to establish that cover may not exceed 50 percent of the cost to perform the work.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides landowners assistance with the conservation and enhancement of soil, water, air and related natural resources on their land. This program pays participants for conservation performance. An annual payment is provided for installing new conservation practices and maintaining existing practices. A supplemental payment is available for participants who also adopt a resource conserving crop rotation. Contracts generally run for 5 years. There is a self-screening check list to assist landowners in determining whether this program is right for them. The check list may be found at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nationl / programs/financial/csp.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides assistance to producers who face threats to soil, water, air and related natural resources on their properties. Through EQIP, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) develops contracts with landowners to implement conservation practices to address environmental natural resource problems. Payments are made once conservation practices are completed according to NRCS requirements. Landowners interested in entering into a cost-share agreement with the USDA for EQIP may file an application at any time. If an EQIP plan of operations addresses non-industrial private forest land, the participant must implement a forest management plan.

The Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) focused on the restoration and enhancement of forest ecosystems to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, improve biodiversity and enhance carbon sequestration. Three enrollment options were offered in this program: permanent easements, 30-year easements and 10-year cost-share agreements. The 2011 sign-up in South Carolina was limited to properties in the Salkahatchie Watershed, the ACE Basin and the area immediately surrounding the Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge. The application deadline for this program was May1, 2012.

The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) is targeted at the restoration, protection and enhancement of wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agricultural production. The Wetland Reserve Program offers three enrollment options:

1) Permanent Easement is a conservation easement in perpetuity. The USDA pays 100 percent of the easement value and up to 100 percent of the restoration costs.

2) 30-Year Easement. USDA pays 75 percent of the easement value.

3) Restoration Cost-Share Agreement is an agreement to restore the wetland functions and values without placing an easement on the property. USDA pays 75 percent of the restoration costs.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Programs (WHIP) provides assistance with the development of upland, wetland, aquatic and other types of wildlife habitat on private lands. State priorities are determined by the NRCS State Conservationist, with recommendations from the State Technical Committee and other partners. Applications are accepted by the Natural Resource Conservation Service at any time. A WHIP plan of operations is required for the area covered in an application and this plan becomes the basis for developing the WHIP cost-share agreement. This program provides 75 percent cost-share for developing habitat. Long term projects that protect or restore critical habitat for a term of 15 years or more may be eligible for up to 90 percent cost-share. NRCS determines eligibility for long-term projects.

Additional information about the various 2008 Farm Bill Programs, application requirements, deadlines and

other details is available at you local USDA office or online at www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov and www.sc.fsa.usda.gov.✷

Timber Mart-South

Here is the first quarter, 2012 price summary from Timber Mart-South, published by the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. The prices shown are **statewide** ranges of stumpage (standing timber) and the comparison (Up or Down) from the first quarter 2011. These prices reflect the average range of stumpage prices reported to Timber Mart-South for the quarter. The price you may receive for your timber can and will vary due to factors such as size of timber, amount, location to mills, access and demand. If you'd like more information on the Timber Mart-South price reporting service, call (706) 542-4756 or visit the website at http://www.timbermart-south.com.

Timber Mart-South 1st Quarter, 2012
South Carolina

Pine Sawtimber: $149-$222 MBF (per thousand board feet Scribner log scale) ($19.82-$29.57/Ton). Down from 1st quarter 2011.

Pine Chip-N-Saw: $36.02-$50.55/Cord ($13.4-$18.86/Ton). Down from 1st quarter 2011.

Pine Pulpwood: $20.00-$28.75/Cord ($7.46-$10.73/Ton). Average slightly up from 1st quarter 2011. ✷

About The Forest Steward

Due to budget constraints, we are unable to print and mail copies of the newsletter. However, we will continue to produce an electronic version four times per year in February, May, August and November.

If you would like to receive future issues of The Forest Steward via email, please join our Forestry and Natural Resources List Server. You may also request to receive notices of landowner-oriented educational programs from this list server. To join, go to our website at www.clemson.edu/extension/forestry and click on the link under the Forest Steward banner. You may also access past issues by clicking on the banner itself.

If you have signed up for the list server and have given us your email address, we will email you future editions of the newsletter.

Questions about this newsletter and submissions should be directed to: Editor, Forest Steward Newsletter, Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service, School of Agricultural, Forest, and Environmental Sciences, 272 Lehotsky Hall, Clemson, SC 29634-0310. Phone: (864) 656-0878. ✷

CLEMSON COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

The South Carolina Forest Steward Newsletter is sponsored by the Forest Stewardship Program in South Carolina. The South Carolina Forest Steward is compiled and edited by Bob Franklin, Area Forestry & Wildlife Agent, Walterboro, South Carolina, and Tamara Cushing, Extension Forestry Specialist at Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina.

SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY COMMISSION